

Gentlepersons,

I find Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election very disturbing to me as a citizen of a free state.

Simply put: I respect a broadcaster's right to decide programming and content and to sell that decision to advertisers for a fair price. I cannot, however, respect a broadcaster's decision to pre-empt the entitlement of their franchisees AND the very heart of our democratic traditions.

This seems an especially heinous act during such a stressful and devious time. Is the message here that the public trust can and will be exploited whenever one side of a political argument deems it is expeditious (provided they support the party in power)? And, that the very institutions that this same public created in order to ensure fairness and justice is unable or unwilling to regulate such corruption of our ideals?

Do you remember seeing the giant face of Big Brother hanging over the populace in George Orwell's novel 1984? If you can see it, ask yourselves: Does that face belong to me?

Sincerely,
Donna Reitan, an American since 1952